

## LAUREN E. PURCELL

SHAREHOLDER



### AREAS OF PRACTICE

Product Liability  
Automobile Liability  
Construction Injury Litigation  
General Liability  
Hospitality & Liquor Liability

### CONTACT INFO

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### ADMISSIONS

Pennsylvania  
2013

U.S. District Court Western District  
of Pennsylvania  
2013

### EDUCATION

University of Pittsburgh School of  
Law (J.D., cum laude, 2013)

University of Pittsburgh (B.S., cum  
laude, 2005)

### HONORS & AWARDS

The Best Lawyers: Ones to  
Watch®, Construction Law;  
Product Liability Litigation -  
Defendants  
2021-2025

### ASSOCIATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

Allegheny County Bar Association

Pennsylvania Bar Association

The W. Edward Sell American Inns  
of Court

### OVERVIEW

Lauren is a shareholder in the Casualty Department. She concentrates her practice in the areas of product liability, premises liability, auto liability, and construction law. Lauren's litigation experience includes assisting in the management of discovery during the course of litigation, as well as drafting and arguing dispositive motions. Lauren participated in Marshall Dennehey's pro bono program where she was responsible for a social security disability appeal case. Further, Lauren has represented corporate entities at the arbitration and magistrate levels.

Lauren earned her Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Pittsburgh in Psychology, Political Science, and Anthropology, *cum laude*. Prior to law school, Lauren was an assistant buyer for Anthropologie. She received her *juris doctor* from the University of Pittsburgh, *cum laude*, in 2013. While in law school, Lauren served as a legal writing teaching assistant and as an editorial board member of the *Journal of Law and Commerce*. Prior to graduating from law school, Lauren served as a judicial intern for the Honorable Maurice B. Cohill, Jr. of the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania, and also as a legal intern for the legal department of Dick's Sporting Goods, Inc.

Prior to joining the firm, Lauren served as a judicial law clerk with the Pennsylvania Court of Common Pleas of Somerset County.

Lauren is admitted into practice in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania. Her memberships include the Pennsylvania and Allegheny County Bar Associations, and the W. Edward Sell American Inn of Court.

## THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

### **Defendants' Prior Business Dealings Insufficient to Find Defendants Regularly Conducted Business in Philadelphia County at the Time Lawsuit Was Filed**

**Pittsburgh**  
**General Liability**  
**January 1, 2025**

The plaintiffs sustained physical injuries from a helicopter crash in Afghanistan and commenced a civil lawsuit in Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. Case Law Alerts, 1st Quarter, Janu

### **Despite Undisputed Facts that Dangerous Condition Was Known and Obvious, PA District Court Held Summary Judgment Not Warranted When There Were Genuine Issues of Material Fact**

**Pittsburgh**  
**Premises & Retail Liability**  
**January 1, 2025**

The plaintiff and his wife brought an action against the defendant for personal injuries the plaintiff received when he slipped and fell on a ramp while unloading a forklift from a tractor-trailer. Case Law Alerts, 1st Quarter, Janu

### **Federal District Court Held that Alcohol Consumption Evidence Was Highly Probative for Determining Plaintiff's Life Expectancy and Damages and Was Admissible Evidence for that Limited Purpose**

**Pittsburgh**  
**Premises & Retail Liability**  
**January 1, 2025**

The plaintiff moved to preclude any introduction of his history of alcohol consumption as irrelevant and prejudicial. Case Law Alerts, 1st Quarter, Janu

### **Negligent Elevator Misleveling not Established by Res Ipsa Loquitur; Plaintiff's Reliance on Expert Report Enough to Preclude Entry of Summary Judgment**

**Pittsburgh**  
**General Liability**  
**January 1, 2025**

The plaintiff sustained physical injuries while pulling a heavy cart of medical supplies out of an elevator when the elevator came to a stop but the floor of the elevator was misaligned with the building floor. Case Law Alerts, 1st Quarter, Janu

### **Pennsylvania Court Holds Summary Judgment Not Proper When Invitee Presented Evidence, Including Surveillance Video Screenshots, that Possessor Created Dangerous Condition on Its Property**

**Pittsburgh**  
**Premises & Retail Liability**  
**January 1, 2025**

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the defendant-casino placed a hand-sanitizer dispenser on the side of a slot machine, above a marble pathway and through the casino floor. Case Law Alerts, 1st Quarter, Janu

## **PUBLISHED WORKS**

"Protecting Your Bar From Claims in the Wake of 'Mortimer', *The Legal Intelligencer*, Liquor Law Supplement, February 15, 2023

"Employers (Still) Not Liable For Serving Alcohol to Intoxicated Employees," *The Legal Intelligencer*, Liquor Law Supplement, February 10, 2022

"Winning the Golden Ticket: Ownership of Terminal-Printed Lottery Tickets," *Defense Digest*, June 2021, Vol. 27, No. 3

"Should Mandatory Liquor Liability Insurance Be in PA's Future?" *The Legal Intelligencer* Liquor Law Supplement, February 25, 2020

*Note, A Fashion Flop: The Innovative Design Protection and Privacy Prevention Act*, 31 J.L. & COM. 203 (2013)

## **PRO BONO ACTIVITIES**

Marshall Dennehey's Social Security Disability Pro Bono Program

## **RESULTS**

### **Summary Judgment Secured in a Neighborhood Dispute Alleging Excess Water Runoff**

#### **Property Litigation**

**June 10, 2024**

We obtained summary judgment in the Westmoreland County Court of Common Pleas in favor of our clients in a dispute over alleged excess water runoff. Our clients, a married couple, were sued by their neighbors for claims related to water runoff due to the installation of gutters and downspouts on a shed near the property line. We effectively argued for summary judgment on the plaintiffs' injunction, trespass, nuisance and negligence claims, demonstrating that the plaintiffs lacked the necessary expert testimony to substantiate their case as required under Pennsylvania law.

### **Summary Judgment for Wellhead Manufacturer.**

#### **Product Liability**

**May 11, 2018**

We obtained summary judgment on behalf of a wellhead manufacturer in a product liability matter pending in Western Pennsylvania. The plaintiff drill operator alleged a wellhead was defectively designed, causing oil and gas to escape during operation, which led to a fire at the well site. The plaintiff asserted economic losses in excess of \$1.4 million. We successfully argued that the plaintiff failed to elicit sufficient expert opinion to support the defect claim and also spoliated evidence in discarding the subject wellhead.